

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-35 are pending. Claims 29, 30, and 33 are amended. No new matter is added. In light of the remarks below, reconsideration is respectfully requested and allowance is solicited.

Interview Summary

Applicant's attorney, Nathan Grebasch, wishes to thank the Examiner for conducting a telephonic interview on June 10, 2009.

During the interviews, Applicant's attorney and the Examiner discussed the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in line with the remarks below. Although the Examiner tentatively indicated that claim 17 may be allowable, no formal agreement was reached on the allowability of claim 17.

Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call if the Examiner believes there are any further issues that might delay issuance.

Rejections under §103

Claims 1-8 and 10-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicant traverses the rejection.

- Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10-17, and 20-35 stand rejected over U.S. Patent Number 5,638,523 to Mullet et al. (hereinafter, "Mullet") in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,154,840 to Pebley et al. (hereinafter, "Pebley").

- Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected over Mullet in view of Pebley, further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0196114 naming Brew (hereinafter, "Brew").

- Claims 18, and 19 stand rejected over Mullet, Pebley, further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0087894 naming Foley (hereinafter, "Foley").

- Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected over Mullet, Pebley, Foley, and Brew.

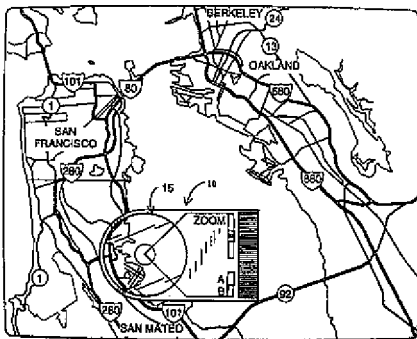
The remarks are ordered in accordance with the Office Action.

Claim 1 recites (emphasis added) a method for controlling access to secured information *in a predetermined region of an image*, comprising:

- determining whether access is authorized to said secured information; and
- distorting said *predetermined region* to present said secured information with context from said image when said determining indicates that access is authorized.

In making out the rejection, the Office contends Mullet teaches the features of distorting a predetermined region to present an information with context from an image. Office Action, page 2 item 7. Applicant disagrees that Mullet teaches this feature.

Mullet does not designate a “predetermined region” of an image. Thus, Mullet cannot teach or suggest distorting a predetermined region to present secure information as recited in claim 1. Although the Office has cited Mullet FIG. 3a; Mullet, Col. 5, lines 63-67; and Mullet Col. 5, lines 58-57 as teaching the above features, Mullet nowhere teaches or suggests “distorting said *predetermined region* to present said secured information.” For the Office’s convenience, the portions of Mullet cited by the Office are reproduced below.



Mullet, FIG. 3A

As depicted in FIG. 3a, the information within the browsing tool's viewing lens 15 area is not enhanced while the browsing tool 10 is moved across the display screen. The information within the browsing tool's viewing lens 15 area is not enhanced so an operator can easily position the browsing tool 10 in order to choose an area to view in detail. The nonenhanced viewing area 15 therefore acts like a “spotting scope” on a telescope. The operator places the area that he wishes to view in detail within the magnifying reticle 13 within the viewing area 15. After the browsing tool 10 remains stationary for a predetermined amount of time, the area within the magnifying reticle 13 becomes enhanced.

Mullet, Col. 5, lines 56-67.

As can be seen above, Mullet fails to teach or suggest the use of a predetermined region. As the Office has not cited Pebley as correcting this deficiency in Mullet, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. In order for a *prima facie* case of obviousness to exist, the contended combination must teach each and every feature. Since Mullet does not teach “distorting a predetermined region,” and the Office has not cited Pebley as correcting this

deficiency in Mullet, the Office has failed to show that Mullet/Pebley teach all the features of claim 1.

Further, the Office also failed to indicate where the Mullet/Pebley combination teaches or suggests “secured information *in a predetermined region of an image*.” Emphasis added. Although the Office Action states “[h]owever Pebley discloses determining whether access is authorized to secured information. . .” the Office failed to identify where Mullet and Pebley teach that the secured information is in a predetermined region of an image. Accordingly, removal of the rejection is requested and allowance is respectfully solicited.

Claims 2, 7, 8, and 10-17 each depend from claim 1 which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 10-17 additionally recite features which are additionally patentable. Accordingly, removal of the rejection is requested and allowance is solicited.

With regard to claim 7, since Mullet fails to teach or suggest a “predetermined region” Mullet also fails to teach “wherein said determining is performed in response to receipt of a signal that selects said predetermined region.” In addition, Mullet, Col. 4 lines 41-43 (cited by the Office) does not teach or suggest “wherein said determining is performed in response to receipt of a signal that selects said predetermined region.” For the Office’s convenience, the portion of Mullet cited by the Office is reproduced below.

The browsing tool 10 is rendered on the graphic display
40 screen 27 such that it appears over the database information
to be browsed through. An operator selectively positions the
browsing tool 10 on the display screen 27 by moving the
cursor 21 using the cursor control device 25. While the
operator moves the browsing tool 10 across the display
45 screen 27, the information within the viewing area 15 is not
affected. When the operator ceases moving the browsing

Mullet, Col. 4, lines 39-46.

As can be seen above, this passage from Mullet does not teach “wherein said determining is performed in response to receipt of a signal that selects said predetermined region.” Accordingly, the combination of Mullet/Pepley does not

teach all the features of claim 7 and the rejection is improper. Removal of the pending rejection is requested and allowance is solicited.

Claim 17 is allowable as the combination of Mullet/Pebbley fails to teach or suggest a “predetermined region at least partially surrounded by a shoulder region where said magnification decreases to that of said image to provide context for said predetermined region with respect to said image.” For the Office’s convenience, the portions of Mullet cited by the Office are reproduced below. As can be seen below, a *prima facie* case of obviousness does not exist because Mullet does not teach a “predetermined region at least partially surrounded by a shoulder region.”

FIG. 2a illustrates the browsing tool 10 of the present invention. The browsing tool 10 has a viewing lens 15 which is used for viewing information presented on the display screen. The viewing lens 15 is adjustable such that an operator can create a larger browsing tool 10. Within the viewing lens 15 is a crosshair 11. Crosshair 11 is used for

Referring to FIG. 2a, the browsing tool 10 is illustrated with a magnification adjustment slider 17 and a toggle switch 19. The magnification adjustment slider 17 is set by an operator using the cursor 21 on the display. The magnification adjustment slider 17 is adjusted to set the scale of the magnification. When the magnification adjustment slider 17 is adjusted by an operator, the magnifying reticle 13 continuously changes in size to reflect the area which will be enhanced. The smaller the magnifying reticle 13, the greater the enhancement will be. In some applications the database information can only be presented on the screen in a finite

Mullet, Col. 4, lines 19-24.

Mullet, Col. 5, lines 8-18.

Removal of the rejection to claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 10-17 is requested and allowance is solicited.

Claims 20 and 23 are allowable based on similar rationales to the those above. No response is due since the Office did not specifically address the features of claims 20 and 23. In making out the rejection of claims 20 and 23, the Office merely stated “[t]hese are rejected using the similar rationale as for the rejection of claim 1.” Office Action page 3, item 8. The M.P.E.P. specifically states that the examiner “ordinarily should reject each claim on all valid grounds available.” M.P.E.P. §707.07(g) Further, “[w]here a major technical rejection is proper, it should be stated with a full development of reasons rather than by a mere conclusion coupled with some stereotyped expression.” *Id.* As a *prima facie* case of obviousness as to claims 20 and 23 has not been shown, removal of the rejection is requested and allowance is solicited.

Claims 22 and 28 stand rejected over Mullet in view of Pebley. Applicant traverses the rejection. Claims 22 and 28 each depend from independent claims which are in condition for allowance. Claims 22 and 28 additionally recite features which are additionally patentable.

Claim 28, for example, recites “wherein said predetermined region is presented at a same level of detail as said context when authorization is denied.” First, Mullet does not teach authorization aspects as the Office admitted in its rejection of claim 1. Thus, Mullet cannot teach “wherein said predetermined region is presented at a same level of detail as said context *when authorization is denied.*” Emphasis added. In addition, the Office’s citation of Mullet, Col. 4, lines 41-43 as teaching the features of claims 22 and 28 is misplaced as this passage does not include the contended teaching. For the Office convenience, the cited passage is reproduced below.

· The browsing tool 10 is rendered on the graphic display
l 40 screen 27 such that it appears over the database information
· to be browsed through. An operator selectively positions the
· browsing tool 10 on the display screen 27 by moving the
l cursor 21 using the cursor control device 25. While the

Mullet, Col. 4, lines 41-43.

As can be seen, this passage does not teach or suggest the features of “wherein said predetermined region is presented at a same level of detail as said context when authorization is denied.” As a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established, removal of the rejection to claims 22 and 28 is requested and allowance is solicited.

Claims 24 and 26 each depend from claim 23 for which a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Claims 24 and 26 additionally recite features which are additionally patentable. Removal of the rejection to these claims is requested and allowance is solicited.

Claim 35 depends from claim 33 for which a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been shown (below). Claim 35 additionally recites features which are additionally patentable. For example, claim 35 recites “project said

image and said predetermined region onto a plane such that said predetermined region is included in a focal region that is at least partially surrounded by a shoulder region in which magnification decreases to the context's magnification." The rejection is improper as Mullet does not teach "a shoulder region" as discussed with respect to claim 17. As a result, not all the features of claim 35 are taught by the Mullet/Pebbley combination and the rejection is improper. Removal of the rejection to claim 35 is requested and allowance is solicited.

Claims 21 and 34 each depend from independent claims which are in condition for allowance. Claims 21 and 34 additionally recite features which are additionally patentable. Removal of the rejection is requested and allowance is earnestly solicited.

Independent claims 29 and 33 stand rejected "using the similar rationale as for the rejection of claim 1." Office Action, page 6, item 25. Applicant traverses the rejection and notes that claim 29 and 33 recite different features from those recited in claim 1 and are also directed to different statutory classes than claim 1. Thus, the above rationales fail to address all the features of claims 29 and 33.

Take for example claim 29 which recites features of "a module to generate a presentation on said display, said presentation includes said predetermined region at a higher resolution than a remainder of said image responsive to a determination that access is authorized to said detailed information, said predetermined region being positioned with respect to the remainder of the image such that said predetermined region is presented in context with said remainder to indicate said predetermined region's location in said image." The Office failed to address the foregoing features in the Office Action. Thus, the Office has failed to show the Mullet/Pebbley combination teaches each and every feature of claims 29 and 33 as required by M.P.E.P. §707.07(g) and the rejection is improper. No additional response is believed to be due. "In proceeding before the Patent and Trademark Office, the Examiner bears the burden of establishing a prima facie

case of obviousness based upon the prior art. . .” In re Fritch, 972 F.2d 1260, 24 USPQ.2d 1780, 1783 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

Removal of the rejection to claims 29 and 33 is requested.

Claims 31 and 32 each depend from claim 29 which is in condition for allowance. Claims 31 and 32 additionally recite features which are additionally patentable.

For example, claim 32 recites the features of “[t]he system of claim 29, wherein said module to generate the presentation is further configured to present a graphical user interface that prevents observation of said predetermined region when access is denied.” In making out the rejection, the Office relies on Pebley, Col. 5, lines 22-32 and Col. 2, lines 50-62 for the above features. For the Office’s convenience, the passages relied on by the Office are reproduced below.

50 received from the document server. A document manager allows a user of the client computer to view on the display device multiple sections of the secure document, each section corresponding to one or more of the data blocks of the secure document stored in encrypted form on the document
55 server. A means for entering commands allows the user to select for viewing fewer than all of the sections of the secure document. A decryption module is provided for decrypting, using the encryption information, the encrypted data blocks corresponding to the selected sections of the secure document. Thus, the user can view on the display the selected
60 sections of the secure document without viewing the entire document.

the user. If the user has authority to access the document, the document manager 40 can give the user the option to transfer the encryption information or key file from server 20 to client 30. 25

If the key is available the user can then review an index of document 15, with the index entries representing sections of the document that correspond to the various data blocks that form document 15. The user then selects the section(s) (lock or “byte range”) of document 15 that the user wishes
30 to see. This request is transmitted to server 20.

Pebley, Col. 2, lines 50-62.

Pebley, Col. 5, lines 22-32.

As can be seen above, neither of these passages teach or suggest “the presentation is further configured to present a graphical user interface that prevents observation of said predetermined region when access is denied.” In order for a *prima facie* case of obviousness to exist each of the recited features must be taught or suggested. Since Pebley does not teach these features, the rejection is improper. Accordingly, removal of the rejection is requested and allowance is solicited.

Claims 25 and 30 stand rejected under Mullet in view of Pebley. Applicant traverses the rejection. In making out the rejection the Office relies on “the similar rationale as for the rejection of claim 17.” Applicant disagrees that

Mullet or Pebley, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the features of claims 17, 25, or 30. Take for example claim 25 which recites the features of “[t]he one or more computer-readable media of claim 23, wherein said instructions are further executable to present a shoulder region that surrounds said predetermined region to provide context between said secured information and said context region.” As discussed above with respect to claim 17, the cited portions of Mullet do not teach or suggest a “shoulder region” as recited in claims 17, 25, and 30. Thus, not all the features of claims 25 and 30 are taught by the Mullet/Pebley combination and the rejection is improper. In light of the foregoing, removal of the rejection is requested and allowance is solicited.

Claim 27 depends from claim 1 which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 27 additionally recites features which are additionally patentable. Removal of the rejection is requested and allowance is earnestly solicited.

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected over the combination of Mullet/Pebley/Brew. Claims 3 and 4 each depend from claim 1 which is in condition for allowance. Thus, claims 3 and 4 are both allowable each claim depends from an allowable base claim. Further, claims 3 and 4 additionally recite features which are additionally patentable. Removal of the rejection to claims 3 and 4 is requested and allowance is solicited.

Claims 18 and 19 stand rejected over the combination of Mullet/Pebley/Foley. As claims 18 and 19 each depend from claim 1 which is in a condition for allowance, claims 18 and 19 are also allowable. Further, claims 18 and 19 additionally recite features which are additionally patentable. Removal of the rejection to claims 18 and 19 is requested and allowance is solicited.

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected over the combination of Mullet/Pebley/Brew/Foley. As claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 which is in a condition for allowance, claims 5 and 6 are also allowable. Further, as amended claims 5 and 6

additionally recite features which are additionally patentable. Removal of the rejection to claims 5 and 6 is requested and allowance is solicited.

Conclusion

All of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowability. If the Office's next anticipated action is to be anything other than issuance of a Notice of Allowability, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call for the purpose of scheduling an interview.

Respectfully Submitted,

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